

# C O P Y

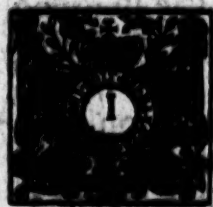
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The Circular Letter from the SOCIETY at  
London, for Promoting Christian Knowledge, &c. to their  
Residing and Corresponding Members, for the Year,  
1735,

Signed,

HEN. NEWMAN.

LONDON, Bartlet's Buildings, Holborn.



It is four Years since the *Society for promoting Christian Knowledge*, sent a *Circular Letter* to their Subscribing and Corresponding Members; which Delay has been occasion'd in a great Measure, by Variety of more than ordinary Business, as will partly appear by the *Abstracts* of their Proceedings, annex'd to the Two last *Anniversary Sermons* preach'd at *Sepulchre's*, and in the following Account.

As to the *Protestant Mission in the East-Indies*, the Reverend Mr. *John Anthony Sartorius*, was sent over to *Madras* as an Assistant Missionary to Mr. *Schultze*, since which the *Mission* has been enlarg'd, by sending the Reverend Mr. *Jahn Ernest Geister*, of the University

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*Hall*, recommended by the very worthy Mr. Professor *Franck*. . . . He arrived at *Madras*, to the great Joy of his Collegues, July 16. 1732.  
O. S.

These three Worthy *Missionaries* go on (by the Blessing of God) very successfully, notwithstanding the Trouble of making themselves Masters of new Languages, and translating several Books; and the Difficulties they meet with, *by a constant Opposition from Papists*. . . . This last Year, above Fifty *Proselytes* from Heathenism have been well Instructed, and received into their Church. . . . They have begun to Educate *Girls*, as well as *Boys*; and the Number of both in the *Malabarian* and *Portuguese* Schools, is Forty Six. Of which Twenty Two are cloath'd and fed by the Charity of a worthy *Gentleman* in *London*, who has been a very liberal Benefactor to this Mission. . . . The *Missionaries* have near finished a Translation of the BIBLE in the *Gentou* Language; which if printed and dispersed, at least the *New Testament*, might be a means of communicating the Gospel, thro' many Parts of the Great *Mogul's* Empire.

The *Missionaries* were in great Distress, for want of a convenient Habitation; being provided with only One House, wherein each Missionary has but one small Room for Lodging, Furniture and Books; and which House has hitherto serv'd instead of a Church, and Schools. To remedy this Inconvenience, which endanger'd their Healths, from the Heat of the Climate, and the pernicious Insects which infest those hot Countries. . . . The Society have lately made Application to the Honourable Directors of the *East-India Company*, to grant Leave for the Building of a Church, and Two School-Houses; which they have very generously been pleas'd to comply with. . . . And the 4th of February last, the Society gave Directions to their *Missionaries* to lay the Foundation of a Church of 40 Feet square; so contriv'd, that it may be enlarg'd to such Dimensions as shall be found necessary. And the Society have wrote at the same time to their Correspondents of the Council at *Fort St. George*, and to the Two *Chaplains* there, to assist them with their Advice and Directions in carrying on the Building. And it was further recommended to them, that nothing be aim'd at but *Durableness* and *Usefulness*, avoiding all unnecessary Expence. . . . The Worthy *Gentleman* before-mention'd, who has been a bountiful Contributor to this Mission, has sent over by the last Ships to the Value of 140*l*. and Professor *Franck*, of *Hall* in *Saxony*, and others, by the Hands of the Reverend Mr. *Ziegenhagen*,





genbagen, 200*l.* both which Sums are sent to the *Missionaries*, towards Building the *Church*, &c. . . . But as this Sum will come short of the Estimate of the Expence of these Buildings, the *Society* trust that Providence will raise up Benefactors, to compleat so noble and glorious a Design.

An Overture being made of settling a new *Mission* at *Fort St. David's*, (an *English* Settlement between *Fort St. George* and *Tranquebar*) the *Society* very much approv'd of the Proposal; looking upon it, as a hopeful Prospect of enlarging the Church of CHRIST, and spreading its saving Influence amongst the *Indians*: Accordingly, they have directed the Rev. Mr. *Schultze* to undertake the Charge of this *Mission*, as his Name is well known among the Heathens; as he is experienc'd in the Language and Manners of the People; and as his long Labours at *Tranquebar*, and in the *Mission* at *Madras*, have, by the Divine Blessing, been so signally prosper'd.

The *Society* have already expended in the Purchase of the *Mission-House*, and *Burial-Ground*, 408*l.* (including Benefactions here, from *Germany*, and at *Fort St. George*) and are besides subject to a constant Expence, which, one Year with another, amounts to upwards of 360*l.* . . . As the *Society's Fund* is not at present sufficient for these good Purposes, and as the Expence will now be increased, by the extraordinary Charges which will necessarily arise from extending the *Mission*; the *Society* heartily recommend this Branch of their Designs, to all those who wish for the *Enlargement of the Kingdom of Jesus CHRIST upon Earth*.

Tho' the *Society* have engag'd for the Support of the *English Mission* at *Fort St. George*, beyond their present Abilities; yet they have made the usual Remittances to the *Danish Missionaries* at *Tranquebar*, of Paper, and other Utenils for the Printing Press, and Apothecary's Shop. An Account of their present State and Prosperity, will be printed in an *Abstract*, at the End of the next *Anniversary Sermon* at *St. Sepulchre's*.

As to the Impression of the *New Testament* and *Psalter* in *Arabick*. . . . The *Society's* Correspondent at *Aleppo*, acquaints them; That he had lately sent 200 *New Testaments*, 200 *Psalters*, and 100 *Compendiums of Christian Doctrine*, to Consul *Barton*, as a Present to the *Greek Patriarch* at *Alexandria*; and more will be sent, when desired. . . . By Letters from the Rev. Mr. *Ludolph Trefurt*, Minister of the *German Lutheran* Congregation at *Petersburg*, to the Rev. Dr. *Guerdes* in *London*,

the *Society* is inform'd; that he had receiv'd several *Arabick New Testaments* and *Psalters*, from the Rev. Mr. *Rodde*, their Correspondent at *Narva*; part of which he had put into the Hands of Mr. *Von Hochmuth*, who promised to disperse them in several Parts of *Persia*. --- And part into the Hands of a Clergyman, who is gone with an Officer sent by the *Czarina* on an Expedition to *Kamschatka*, the furthest Country towards the North-East, beyond *Siberia*. The rest are reserved in the *Society's* Store, to be sent to such Places, at such times, and in such Numbers, as shall be thought most adviseable.

The *Society* earnestly recommend to their Members, the visiting of the *Work-Houses* in their Neighbourhoods, and pressing the daily Use of Prayers out of the *Liturgy*, together with a Prayer at the End of the last printed *Account of the Work-houses*.

The *Society* cannot omit renewing their Request to their Members, frequently to visit the *Charity Schools* in their Neighbourhoods, and to recommend, that with religious Instructions, they should join all proper Methods of inuring the Children to *Labour* and *Industry*, and of instructing them in a true sense of their great Obligations to be *Dutiful* and *Loyal* to the present happy *Protestant Government*. And whereas it is justly apprehended, that the *Popish Emissaries* that flock in amongst us from abroad, will endeavour (as they have already attempted upon some of the Scholars of a publick *Grammar-School* in this City) to poison the weak Minds of these poor Children. --- It is therefore hoped, that those who have the Care of the several *Charity-Schools*, will direct the Schoolmasters, to give their Children a just Impression of the abominable *Corruptions*, *Idolatry*, and *cruel Persecutions of Popery*.

Upon an Information and Petition of the *Lord Primate, Archbishops, Bishops, Noblemen* and *Gentry* of the Kingdom of *Ireland* to His Majesty, --- setting forth the *Increase of Popery* and *Disaffection* to the present Establishment there; proceeding in a great Measure from the gross Ignorance the People are kept in by the *Popish Clergy*; --- and that the proper Way, thro' God's Blessing, for converting and civilizing the said deluded People, and bringing them in time to be good Christians, and faithful Subjects, would be to erect and establish a sufficient Number of *English Protestant Schools*, wherein the Children of the *Irish* Natives may be instructed in the *English* Tongue, and the Fundamental Principles of true Religion. --- His Majesty was therefore graciously pleased



pleased to grant His **Royal Charter** for erecting such *Schools*; which was opened the 6th of *February*, 1733. . . . And from the known Zeal and Prudence of those worthy *Prelates*, *Noblemen*, and *Gentlemen*, who have undertaken the Government and Direction of these *Schools*, it is not at all to be doubted, but by the Blessing of God, Succels will attend their pious Endeavours.

The *Society* does not doubt but it will be a particular Pleasure to all their Members, to hear of the Increase and Prosperity of the *Orphan-House* at *Hall*; from whence the *Society* have been supply'd with many worthy *Missionaries*; . . . By an Account sent from Professor *Franck* to an Honourable Member of the *Society* in *London*, dated in *November* last, it appears, that there are in the *German School*, 1600. . . . In the *Latin School*, 506. . . . In the *Royal Collegiate School*, 71. . . . Masters teaching in these *Schools*, 182. . . . Students in the *Seminary* for *School-masters*, 33. . . . Inspectors, 8. . . . In all, 2400. . . . Above 800 of which are maintain'd in the *Orphan-House*; for whose Support the Mercy of God has hitherto afforded all Necessaries. Thus has the Almighty from very small Beginnings raised this *Orphan-House*, to enable them not only to educate some Thousands of poor Children, but also several Students of Divinity. . . . Some upon their Travels through different Parts of *Germany*, *Poland*, *Holland*, and *England*, to convert the *Jews*. . . . Some with the *Saltzburgers* in *Georgia*; Some at *Tranquebar*; and Others at *Fort St. George*: All proving, under God, useful Labourers in His Vineyard.

In the Beginning of the Year 1732. the *society*, when they heard the very melancholy Account of the cruel Sufferings of the Protestants in the Archbishoprick of *saltzburg*, (having first obtain'd His Majesty's gracious Permission) resolv'd upon doing all that lay in their Power to raise Collections for these their greatly persecuted Brethren. Accordingly they published *Two Accounts of their sufferings*; which moved many charitable and pious Persons to contribute liberally to their Relief. . . . About 1500*l.* of those Collections were remitted to *Germany* for the Relief of many *Thousand* poor *Saltzburgers*, forced out of their native Country in the depth of a very cold Winter, destitute even of common Necessaries, before it was known whither they were to go. . . . Above twice as much was reserv'd for the Assistance of such amongst them, as were desirous of accepting a Settlement in His Majesty's New-erected

erected Colony of Georgia, where Land is allotted for the Benefit of such as are persecuted for the Sake of the Gospel, (in so happy a Climate, and a Soil so fruitful, as may make them some amends for what they were obliged to leave in their own Country) accordingly, 45 Men, Women, and Children, with Mr. Von Reck their Commissary, sailed from the Downs the 8th of January, 1734. and arrived at Georgia the 7th of March following. . . . An Account of their Voyage, and happy Settlement in that Province, appears in an Extract lately printed, of the Journals of Mr. Commissary Von Reck, who conducted the first Transport of Saltzburgers to Georgia, and of the Reverend Mr. Bolzius, one of their Ministers.

These Accounts of the kind Reception of their Countrymen, encourag'd more of these poor persecuted People, who had before left their Country, to follow them to Georgia. — And accordingly, 58 Men, Women, and a few Children, with Mr. Vat their Conductor, sailed from the Downs the 8th of November, in Company with the Indian Chiefs, returning to their own Country. And the Society have within these few Days, with great Pleasure received an Account of their happy and safe Arrival, in perfect Health, the 28th of December following. And they thankfully acknowledge the Protection of the Almighty, that *these two Embarkations* have been perform'd in the midst of Winter, in so short a time, and without any Misfortune.

The Money at that time remaining in the Hands of the Trustees for that Charity (exclusive of a Sum placed in the publick Securities, as a Fund for the Payment of the Salaries to the Ministers and Schoolmaster, till such time as a settled Provision can be made for them) was not near sufficient to discharge the Demands made upon them, viz. For their Expences in their long Journey from Augsburg to Rotterdam, and their Passage from thence to Gravesend; for their Subsistence whilst in England; for their Voyage to Georgia; their Maintenance there for One Year; and for Arms, Utensils, and other necessary Provisions. — But it pleased God to move the Hearts of many truly pious and charitable Persons, to send in their seasonable and liberal Contributions, so that the Society are enabled to defray the Expences of the last Transport: And they hope the same kind disposition will continue, towards the Assistance of many more of these greatly injured and indigent People, should they offer themselves to go to Georgia; which 'tis highly probable they will, when they



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they bear of the kind Reception, and good Settlement their Country-men have already met with there.

While the *Society's* Thoughts were taken up for the Relief of those that suffer'd for the Sake of the Protestant Religion in *Foreign Parts*, they were justly alarm'd at the extraordinary Endeavours and Artifices of the Priests of the Church of *Rome*, in making Converts to Popery in our own Country. — Our Right Reverend and worthy *Diocesan*, ever vigilant over the People committed to his Charge, has lately wrote a *Circular Letter* to his Clergy; " Exhorting them to use the greatest Diligence in watching those who lay in wait to deceive, and to spare no Pains in hindring their People from falling into a Snare; that is, from being perverted to a Religion, which has so grossly corrupted the true Faith and Doctrine of Christ, and introduced so much Superstition and Idolatry into the Christian Worship." --- The *Convocation* have also lately taken notice of the Growth of Popery, in their Address to His Majesty; Who was graciously pleased to commend their Zeal in suppressing it, and assures them, " That Nothing shall be wanting on his Part, to give their Endeavours the desired Effect.

The *Society* would not be wanting at this important Juncture, to do what lies in their Power to furnish proper *Antidotes* for the Poison so artfully prepared, and dispers'd with such uncommon Diligence. And they have accordingly appointed a *Committee* to consider what Tracts it will be necessary to reprint, and to add them to a great many good ones they already have in their *Catalogue*, against the pernicious Errors of the Church of *Rome*. And the *Society* would be glad to know from time to time from their Members, what *Arts* are made use of, and what Books dispersed by *Popish Emissaries*, in order to pervert and draw the Unwary from the Simplicity that is in Christ Jesus.

The *Society* have great Reason to fear, that the too general Omission of *Family-Worship*, and of *Catechising* Children and Servants in the Fundamental Principles of the Christian Religion, together with the great and notorious Neglect of the *Publick Worship* of Almighty God; The profane Treatment of Divine Revelation, and the Author of our Salvation Himself, in *Deistical Books and Pamphlets*, (so serviceable to the *Popish Interest*, and so agreeable to the *Popish Maxims*) have very much contributed to the late extraordinary Progress of Popery, which sensibly affects every true Protestant. . . . The *Society* therefore earnestly recom-

to their Members, and all others that have a true Regard for Religion, to use their warmest Endeavours upon so important an Occasion, by all proper Methods to bring People to a greater Love for their BIBLES, and a just Sense of the Necessity there is to begin the good Work of Religion in private Families; to engage their Households to come constantly to Church, and seriously observe the *Lord's Day*; in order to fix in their minds a due Regard for Religion, and give them a Love and Zeal for the *Protestant Faith*.--- For this Purpose, the *Society* recommends the dispersing, together with the Tracts against *Papery*, such other Pieces in their *Catalogue*, as prove the *Divine Authority* and *Excellence* of the *Holy Scriptures*; and such as shew the *Necessity* and *Advantages* of *Private, Family, and Publick Worship*.

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N. B. To prevent Mistakes, our BENEFACTORS are desired to take Notice, that the Name of this Voluntary Society is, — THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

☛ The SOCIETY have agreed to Reprint The Plausible Arguments of a ROMISH PRIEST from Scripture and Antiquity, Answered; By Dr. COMBER: which their Members may have on the usual Terms.

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F I N I S.

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